THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

External Financing for Urban Projects

819. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought international funding for taking up urban decongestion programme for Hyderabad Metropolitan area and also for water supply and sewer projects in district headquarter towns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir. The State Government has requested for obtaining international funding to undertake civic amenities in urban areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) The detailed project proposals are awaited from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The matter was taken up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Bank has included Andhra Pradesh as one of the "focus" States.

Border Area Development Programme

820. SHRI S.P. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had set up a High Powered Committee for Border Area Development Programme under the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the names of Members and reasons for not giving representation to the Elected Member of Parliament of this area;

(c) the grant sanctioned during each of the last three years particularly for the border areas of Gujarat (Kutch region);

(d) whether the grants given are adequate; and

(e) if not, whether the additional grant will be given to meet the development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) There is no high powered advisory Committee for the Programme.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Grants sanctioned for the Border areas of Gujarat under Border Area Development Programme (BADP) for the years 1993-94 to 1995-96 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Allocation/release
1993-94	698.14
1994-95	793.33
1995-96	858.00

No representation has been received for increasing the availability of funds for the programme.

Deep Sea Fishing Policy

821. SHRI N. DENNIS : Wil the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the policy persued by the Government regarding deep sea fishing in the country; and

(b) the details of the safeguards extended to traditional fishermen regarding fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) The Government of India has been allowing operation of deep sea fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ under charter scheme of 1981 and 1986 and under the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy, 1991 involving Joint Venture, Leasing and Test Fishing, apart from acquisition of Indian owned vessels.

(b) Specific areas are earmarked for fishing exclusively by traditional fishermen in each State under its Marine Fishing Regulation Acts/Rules. These areas range from 5-10 kms from shore from State to State. The area extending upto 12 nautical miles from the shore, termed territorial waters, has been reserved exclusively for fishing by traditional fishermen and mechanised trawlers of less than 20 meters overall length. Deep sea fishing vessels are required to fish only beyond this area. Regular weather forecasts are also arranged by States to warn the fishermen against going out at sea on bad weather, like heavy rain, cyclone, etc.

Maintenance of DDA Parks

822. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether public parks under the jurisdiction of DDA are not being maintained properly and funds allocated for their maintenance are diverted elsewhere;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many parks have been subjected to encroachement by individuals and various agencies of the localities; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to clear the parks of encroachments and maintain them properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The DDA has reported that its parks are being maintained properly and no funds meant for park has been diverted.

(b) and (c). Out of 2955 parks, there are encroachments in 151 parks. These are old encroachments. Action for removal of these encroachments is taken after following due process of law. However to check further encroachments following actions are taken :

- Construction of boundary wall.
- Intensive watch and ward.
- Demolition of fresh encroachment.

Infrastructure Programme

823. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have been implementing a quality infrastructure programme to promote the quality of electronic goods produced in the country to compete in the foreign market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the programme has been successful during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Standardization Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) is one of the major infrastructure provided by the Department of Electronics to assist electronic industries in the country to improve quality of their products so as to make them globally competitive. Under STQC programme, there is a network of 22 laboratories in the country. These laboratories are providing the services viz. Testing, Calibration, Quality Consultancy and Counselling, Developmental Assistance and Training for Quality improvement.

2. In order to enable electronic industry in the country to compete globally, STQC has introduced and implemented various certification schemes such as :

- Quality System Management ISO 9000 (SQ Scheme)
- Safety (S Mark)
- Electromagnetic Compatability (EMC) mark
- International Electro-technical Commission for Quality Assessment of Electronic Components - IECQ.

3. With an objective to gain international acceptability and recognition for STQC services, STQC has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with leading International Organisations such as British Standards Institution (BSI) QA-UK, Japan Quality Assurance Organisation (JQA) - Japan, KAITECH-Korea, Underwriters Laboratories (UL)-USA, CEPREI-China, VDE-Germany, NSAI-Ireland, HKQAA-Hongkong for mutual recognition of certification and testing services.

(c) STQC programme is successful and electronics industry in the country has been showing encouraging response to this programme. Since the operation of various certification schemes, a number of industries have been certified for ISO-9000 (SQ), Safety (S Mark), EMC and IECQ.

Neelam Oil Field

824. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Neelam Oil Field is facing closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the private sector companies participating in the exploration of Oil in the Oil Field;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ask those private sector companies to withdraw from Neelam;

(e) whether ONGC would be asked to go alone in that case; and

(f) the other steps are taken to rehabilitate that oil field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). There is no exploration activity presently going on, as the development of the field is over. The operations of the field are being managed by ONGC and no private company is operating in the Neelam Oil field.

(f) Some of the major steps being taken to rehabilitation the oil field are :

(i) Extensive work over programme is being undertaken by ONGC. Wells are being put on artificial lift (gas lift, auto gas lift and jet pumps) systems.

(ii) ONGC is interacting with international experts for determining the strategy for tackling the production problems.

(iii) Options are being explored by ONGC about the possibility of entering into 'strategic alliance' with other exploration and production company to improve the performance of the field.